

After the National Rifle Association called Friday for armed police officers at every local school, California members of Congress were swift to react to the proposal.

Democratic U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein didn't dismiss the NRA proposal out of hand. "If school districts want to hire armed security guards," she said, "I support that. It's a decision each school district should make." Feinstein added that one-in-three public schools in America already have armed security on staff.

Feinstein again called for a renewal of her assault weapons ban. "The NRA's blanket call to arm our schools is really nothing more than a distraction," she said. "It's a delay tactic."

Democrats on the House side were equally critical. Grace Napolitano of Norwalk said it was "just like the NRA. Sell more guns. Arm everybody." West L.A.'s Henry Waxman said it was "very cynical for the NRA to blame everybody but themselves for the gun disasters, the killing that we've been seeing in recent years." And Janice Hahn of Carson said the NRA's solution "is so out of touch with reality and so out of touch with what the American people want right now."

Hahn supports the assault weapons ban, but wants to do something about the guns already out there. She sent a letter to House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi asking that \$200 million in any fiscal cliff deal be set aside to buy back assault weapons: "I want to get the ones that are already out there and get them off the streets."

Waxman also supports Feinstein's assault weapons ban, and a ban on magazine clips for those weapons. He also suggests a look at our culture's "glorification of violence" and an examination of our mental health system.

Mental health is the top issue for Congresswoman Napolitano. She says families need education to help identify those with mental health problems and the resources to treat them. She says families should be able "to have the funding to pay for the expensive psychiatric treatment for those who need it."

Most Republican House members have been silent on the issue, but Congressman Buck McKeon of Santa Clarita issued a statement saying there should be a “thorough dissection of our country’s mental health and family services.” He also suggests looking at “problematic” enforcement issues with current gun laws.

And a spokesman for Irvine’s **John Campbell** says the Congressman doesn’t support a **“single solution approach to solving what is clearly a multi-faceted problem,”** but does believe we should have a national debate about the root causes of the violence at Newtown.